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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 1st March 2018 Agenda

1. Acting Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members
4. Guest Speakers
 - a) International Fun Fairs
 - b) Martin Wright, Leeds City Council
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 1st February 2018
6. Police Report
7. Discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan event on Saturday 3rd March 2018
8. Other issues relating to the Neighbourhood Forum
9. Report of the Committee meeting held on 15th February 2018
10. Correspondence
11. Possible Co-option of Committee members

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 1st February 2018

Attendance:- Mr. R. Bell (in the chair), Mrs. C. Adamson, Mrs. S. Akhtar, Mr. G. Almass, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mr. M. Clayton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. M. Day, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. J. Hook, Mrs. N. Hussain, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. A. Mahmood, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Mrs. M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. H. Sagoo, Mr. A. Scopes, C. Thornton and Mr. R. J. W. Winfield

1. Acting Chairman's Opening Remarks- Richard Bell noted that he is in the chair for this meeting, but there is no change to the organisation of the Forum. It had been agreed that he would chair meetings of the Forum for a few months in order to give Christine Thornton a rest

2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, John Cunningham, A. Hussain, Y. Hussain Rev Lindsey Pearson. **When the minutes were presented for approval at the following meeting, it was noted that Councillor**

Angela Gabriel had presented apologies but this had not been recorded in the minutes

3. Police Report-

3.1 It was agreed that as the PCSOs present at the meeting needed to leave quickly, that the Police Report be taken in priority to other items of business. A brief newsletter was circulated and one of the PCSOs present read the crime figures. It was noted that there were two arsons, one burglary (business and community), two attempted burglaries (business and community), seven burglaries (residential), twenty six instances of criminal damage, five thefts in dwelling, one possession of drugs, four instances of vehicle interference, two instances of making off without payment, 26 thefts from a motor vehicle, four thefts of motor vehicles. It was noted that twelve out of the 26 thefts from motor vehicles involved registration plates; there are leads for a couple of these including CCTV. Most of the residential burglaries involved access through open or insecure windows at the front of the property. Dark nights give rise to a lot of issues and there is a big increase in the number of burglaries at this time. It was noted that the area to which the crime figures refer is Beeston Hill and Beeston.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Richard Bell asked whether anyone has been caught for the offences described. It was noted that there has been one arrest of a person for the theft of a motor vehicle and one arrest of a person for theft from shops. Both the arrests are of known criminals. Both the arrests involve known criminals. There are no other arrests of note, but the crimes are under investigation.

3.3 Richard Bell asked whether the trend of the number of crimes is up or down. It was noted that in terms of residential crime, there is a slight increase due to the time of year only; everywhere else there has been a slight decrease. It was noted that there will be a change of the structure of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, in terms of shifts and days worked so there will be more PCSOs out and about. Forum members were asked to bear with the team until March.

3.4 Christine Thornton asked what vehicle interference is. It was noted that this is where there has been an unsuccessful attempt to break into a vehicle, for example using screw drivers.

3.5 Ash Mahmood noted that there has been a massive increase in the number of break ins to cars. It was noted that the police have caught a known criminal, Nathaniel Powell on the basis of forensic evidence, and he has been locked up. Things have been fairly quiet since.

4. Guest Speakers-

4.1 Richard Bell introduced the guest speakers, Stewart Robinson from International Fun Fairs, and Martin Wright of Leeds City Council

4.2 Stewart Robinson noted that he is a co-director of International Fun Fairs, which holds the Valentine Fair, which has been held at Elland Road for 18 years. There has been a little change to the usual arrangements required by matches at Elland Road. Stewart Robinson originally thought they would lose either Saturday 17th February or Sunday 18th February. It was noted that the match which will make it impossible for the fair to operate will now take place on the Sunday. In addition, it was noted that although the fair normally opens on a Thursday, it will not be possible to do this this year due to a Rugby League match at Elland Road between Leeds Rhinos and Hull KR. It was noted that on the first Thursday of the fair, there is an official opening involving the Lord Mayor, a blessing by a local priest and visits from members of the Showman's Guild. It was noted that this year, the President of the Showmans Guild will be visiting. This will be followed by a session when the fair is open for children with special needs, but not to members of the public. The fair will open for this purpose at 1p.m on Thursday 8th February with special needs children from Martin House. However, instead of opening to the public afterwards the fair will close at 3p.m to prepare for the match which kicks off at 7.45p.m. The fair will then open to the public on the following day. In addition, instead of the fair closing on a Sunday (18th February), the fair will close on Saturday 17th February. Stewart Robinson noted that the fair normally closes early on a Sunday. On Sunday 18th February, there is a football match with a kick off at 4.30pm. If the fair had opened at 1p.m, it would need to close at 2p.m. Thus, this year, the fair will be open to

the public between Friday 9th February and Saturday 17th February .

4.3 Stewart Robinson noted that there will be the same set up as last year . As a result of a number of issues which had arisen several years ago, there is a charge of £1 per person to come into the event so that anyone coming onto the site can be checked by security. The last time such an issue had arisen had been around eight years ago . There are toilets, security and first aid on site. The fair closes at 10p.m. Music and noise will be kept down. The arrangements worked very well last year and there has not been a single complaint . The fair has supported Martin House every year, but the charity for this year will be the Candlelighters. The car park to be used will be the Fullerton Car Park , as in previous years. There is free car parking with security . There will be a few new rides this year . This is the second largest fair in Yorkshire; only a fair at Hull is larger. Stewart Robinson noted that International Fun fairs are very proud of the fair and Leeds people are very proud . The fair had started in Leeds City Centre but had outgrown the area as people had wanted bigger rides and roller coasters . People are always made very welcome and the site is cleaned up and tidied . A team of people cleans up Elland Road and a number of adjacent streets with cleaning taking place before the fair opens . There is also green light traffic management on Elland Road and at the Park and Ride facility involving people with cones to prevent inconsiderate parking . There are twenty six adult rides, a giant wheel and a roller coaster . The giant wheel had been placed on Victoria Gardens in Leeds City Centre and was spectacular . It is hoped to encourage the same people to visit the fair as in the past . The fair is visited not just by people from Leeds but also by people from Bradford, Huddersfield and elsewhere . This is a real family event with few hitches . There has never been a need to send for the police even though they are based just across the road! .

4.4 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Paulrne Johnson sought confirmation that the match on Sunday 18th February kicks off at 4.30p.m Martin Wright confirmed that these details are correct and that the match had been moved by Sky TV , which they are entitled to do under the terms of their contract with the Football Association. Leeds United FC has no say in the decision to change the timing of the match

4.5 Martin day asked what steps are being taken to prevent litter originating from the fair. Stewart Robinson noted that most of the rubbish collected on Elland Road originates from Macdonalds, rather than from the fair. It was noted that a company from Wakefield is used to pick up litter , and rubbish is collected every morning .

4.6 A member of the audience asked whether International Fun Fairs would donate money to the Beeston Community Forum, as in previous years . Stewart Robinson confirmed that such a donation would be given

4.7 Martin Wright said that if any problems arise , there are a number of points of contact available. He added that he is never completely certain as to whether the fair would continue to be held at Elland Road in succeeding years , due to the popularity of the Park and Ride facility . It is noted that the fair is presently held on land to the rear of the North Stand, as it has been for the past two years . This is further away from residents than in the past . Vehicles on Lowfields Road will not pass houses , and this will minimise problems . It was noted that there has been some discussion of Leeds United FC buying or leasing Fullerton Car Park for use as a training ground

4.8 Ash Mahmood said that she has read something about an academy on the site of Matthew Murray School . Martin Wright noted that there has been a press release about Fullerton Park. He noted that this would remove 800 spaces for match day parking , which does not seem sensible . A hundred cars can park on the overspill (former BRS) site. It was thought that phase 3 of the Park and Ride facility will be built. Phases 1 and 2 have proven to be popular and had filled very quickly.

4.9 Richard Bell noted that there had been a number of concerns about the fair when it first came to Elland Road but these have been fixed . However, he recalled that a ride had blinded drivers coming onto the Motorway. Stewart Robinson noted that the ride concerned has a spotlight , which was turned off when they found about the problem . They will not make the same mistakes. He added that the area concerned would be left empty for match days , for possible overspill . Last year, the overspill had been where the ride was placed . On this

occasion rides had been swapped too early. Martin Wright added that the police get jittery when rides are located too close to the motorway . Stewart Robinson noted that the lights on the Big Wheel are not blinding lights . Martin Wright noted that the fair organisers like to move things around so that the fair remains interesting to visitors , and they do not think that it is exactly the same as in previous years . A member of the audience observed that it is 'a lovely fair' . Martin Wright noted that at various times when the fair has been taking place ., the weather has been terrible. Stewart Robinson noted that last year, between the first Thursday and the following Tuesday of the fair, the weather was terrible ; and the showmen, including some who had come from Wales, London and Scotland were gutted . However, the weather changed on the following day and the fair was packed afterwards . Martin Wright noted that he thought the car park would reach capacity at the weekend. The park and ride facility can be used so that parking is contained on the site not pushed onto residential areas . If the fair is busy the Park and Ride facility gets quiet.

4.10 Gohar Almass khan said that it is great to have fun filled family activities which bring in people from other areas . He noted that Leeds is a child friendly city. He asked whether there are any incentives to attract local people, for example off peak activities. Stewart Robinson noted that there are a number of offers . He noted that every school in Leeds will receive a leaflet with offers. There is a saving of £15 if all the offers are used . The offers are accepted at all times. There is also a midweek special in which childrens rides are charged at £1.50 , compared with a £2 charge on most fairgrounds. The price for big rides is reduced between 1p.m and 6p.m at midweek . In the evening, prices revert to normal. The vouchers, of which Stewart Robinson left a supply on the top table, are accepted at any time and are also available at most shops (75000 leaflets have been produced and a team of people have been dealing with this for ten days) . Permission has been received from schools to distribute the leaflets and no one has been left out . Stewart Robinson said that he would leave behind a poster for the fair . The leaflet gives information about the times at which the fair will operate ; these are also publicised on the website which is getting bigger and better. There has been slightly less publicity in local newspapers than in previous years . There is still publicity in the Yorkshire Evening Post , but not in all newspapers as social media publicity has been stronger . There are also advertisements on Pulse Radio . Martin Wright noted that some rides are intended for teenagers and above; others for younger visitors . Stewart Robinson noted that the fair attracts a lot of families during the day , hence the leaflets which offer value for money. At night, there are a lot of teenagers . Advertising tries to emphasise that the fair is for all the family between 2 and 92 . It is not necessary to spend a penny, other than the £1 admission charge. People visiting the site know that it is secure , that there are toilets on the site and that it is possible to look at the rides without going on them .

4.11 Gohar Almass Khan asked whether the fair is still branded as the Valentine Fair. Stewart Robinson noted that it is and noted that International Fun Fairs, which has been established for 30 years , is the name of the firm which operates the fair. Stewart Robinson noted that if there are any problems there is a telephone number for himself (07836 329496) and his partner Roger Tuby (07831 427728) . He asked forum members to phone him or Roger Tuby if there are any problems with noise or litter. He would be happy to attend the next meeting of the Forum

5. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 4th January 2018 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting

6. Matter Arising

6.1 Richard Bell noted that a substantial proportion of recent Forum meetings had been taken up by discussions about the venue for Forum meetings . Accordingly, Richard Bell would read a statement which has been sent to members of the committee . Robert Winfield explained that the statement will be recorded verbatim in the minutes of the meeting

6.2 Richard Bell read the statement as follows:-

'The decision to hold meetings of the Beeston Community Forum at the Old White Hart has become the subject of extended debate during the monthly forum meetings. These discussions have become fractious at times, and

are now being considered as disruptive to the forums business. As such, any forum members or guests who continue to pursue the subject of forum meeting location will be considered out of order. To put this decision in context, the following facts should be considered.

- The location of forum meetings whilst the community centre was redeveloped was discussed at the general forum meeting held on 6th July 2017. The proposal to meet at the Old White Hart was discussed at this meeting. No objections to this were raised at the time although a number of the people who now object were present at that meeting.

- At the 6th July meeting the forum agreed to leave the final decision on meeting location to the forum committee. No objection to this was raised by those who now question the decision made.

In deciding to hold meetings at the Old White Hart the committee considered the following criteria.

- That the venue was accessible. To confirm this a visit was made to check on the facilities at the Old White Hart and ensure the anyone with mobility issues wouldn't have problems accessing the venue.
- That the forum meetings must be alcohol free. To this ends, the bar always remains closed in the meeting room and drinks are not allowed to be brought in from the public bar area.
- That the meeting room was accessible through a separate entrance to the public bar area so that forum members did not have to pass through the bar area if they did not wish to do so.

As these considered criteria were met, and the Old White Hart was willing to allow the forum use of the facilities at no cost, the committee decided to use the venue as its temporary meeting site until the new community centre becomes available.

The committee considered that no rational reason has since been presented that calls this decision into question. Accordingly, the issue must now be considered closed.'

6.3 Richard Bell proposed that the statement be accepted by the Forum. There were 14 votes in favour of the proposal with four against . The statement was therefore accepted .

6.4 Ash Mahmood said that he understands and respects what has been said. He would continue to attend Forum meetings but cannot answer for anyone else. He wondered how long it would take for the replacement Beeston Village Community Centre to be completed . Robert Winfield noted that he has recently been involved in discussions with Toshali Bhatia of Health for All (Leeds), who is heading up the project to build the new Community Centre. Robert Winfield noted that there had been delays and the construction of the new building is now expected to start in the middle of February . He noted that it will take six months to construct the new building , followed by three months to fit it out, so that the first meeting in the new community centre is likely to be the AGM in December 2018. This, of course assumes that there are no further delays (which would be notified to the Forum) . Robert Winfield noted that Rev Lindsey Pearson had told the committee that a booking has been taken for Beeston Parish Centre on Thursdays so that it is no longer available for Forum meetings. Gohar Almass Khan said that he has no issues with the use of the present venue , but wants meetings to be inclusive. He noted that the debate about the venue has taken place . Robert Winfield confirmed that it is absolutely the intention to hold Forum meetings in the new Community Centre when this is available

7. Beeston Neighbourhood Forum .

7.1 It was agreed to ratify the decision of the Committee to appoint Mark Clayton as a member of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee

7.2 Robert Winfield pointed out that the Neighbourhood Forum will be holding a large event between 11 am and 2p.m on Saturday 3rd March at Beeston Parish Centre. The purpose of the event will be to enable local residents to state their opinions about what they would like to see in the Neighbourhood Plan . A number of community groups will also be invited to take stalls at the event to publicise their activities. Ash Mahmood asked how the event would be publicised . Richard Bell noted that a number of posters had been produced . Christine Thornton added that she and Pam Jones had agreed to distribute a number of posters publicising the event. Richard Bell noted that the event will also be publicised on social media . He added that we can lose track of the fact that people do not engage by particular means

7.3 Robert Winfield noted that Angus Kinnear, Managing Director of Leeds United FC , had accepted an invitation to attend the Forum meeting on 10th May 2018. Robert Winfield noted that as things stand , the meeting on 10th May would include the AGM of the Neighbourhood Forum (which can be concluded in around 15 minutes) , a longer discussion about the Neighbourhood Forum and Angus Kinnear's comments. This is clearly excessive and the Forum therefore needs to take a decision to move the longer discussion about Neighbourhood Planning either to the April, meeting or to the June meeting. Robert Winfield indicated that he has no preference . Robert Winfield added that as a result of the England international football match which would be taking place at Elland Road on 7th June, the Committee has taken a decision to reschedule this meeting to 14th June. The Old White Hart has confirmed that the function room is available on this date . Formal notice will be given at the next Forum meeting. Christine Thornton proposed that the longer discussion on Neighbourhood Planning would take place in April, as this is the first meeting after the event in March . This was agreed. Robert Winfield noted that Angus Kinnear will appear at the last Forum meeting before the International Match ; he suspected that Forum members might have comments about Leeds United FC's proposed new logo .

8. Report of the Committee meeting held on 18th January 2018. Robert Winfield reported that the bulk of the meeting had been taken up with discussion about the neighbourhood planning event on 3rd March , and events at recent Forum meetings and their repercussions . Robert Winfield noted that this discussion took up fully six pages in the minutes .

9. Correspondence. It was noted that there was no correspondence other than that which has already been dealt with .

10 . Co-options to the Committee . Ash Mahmood offered to be co -opted to the committee of the Beeston Community Forum. He noted that he has recently moved into the Beeston Community Forum area. This was proposed and seconded and agreed with no votes against but with several abstentions. Pam Jones expressed concerns that there is too much of a clash of interests . Robert Winfield noted that as the committees of the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum almost always meet together , it would make sense for Ash Mhmood to be co-opted to the Committee of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. As he is not already a member of the Neighbourhood Forum , he would need to be approved as such approved as such. Resolutions to approve his membership of the Neighbourhood Forum and the Neighbourhood Forum Committee were agreed .

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Mark Clayton said that on street car parking by employees of Capita was getting worse . On one recent occasion bin wagons had been unable to get up his street and cars involved were given tickets . Pam Jones noted that this is also happening on the Cardinals and the Millshaws. Mark Clayton noted that Capita is not allocating spaces in its own car park unless the car is shared , leaving single occupancy cars to park elsewhere . It was agreed that the Forum will write to Capita to express our concerns. . Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that when he was going past Millshaw on the previous day, he noted that there is a problem .He noted that Highways Engineering has carried out some research into these issues and there has been some progress . Mark Clayton and Pam Jones noted that there has been illegal parking . Mark Clayton noted that a fire engine would be unable to get up his street. Richard Bell noted that car drivers must obey road markings such as double yellow lines . Adam Ogilvie suggested copying the letter to Capita to Nick Hunt of the Leeds City Council Highways Department (e mail nicholas.hunt@leeds.gov.uk) . This was agreed . Pam Jones noted that people have been parking in Old Lane and catching the bus.

11.2 Mark Day referred to bright lights on Elland Road which had been causing light pollution. Myra Munro said that she had noticed this even though she lives nowhere near Elland Road . It was agreed to write to Leeds United FC about this.